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MEAT SALES TO THE UNITED STATES
(to be used only if raised by GOA)

I. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Argentina cannot sell uncooked meat to the United States because hoof and mouth disease is present in Argentina.

II. FOREIGN GOVERNMENT POSITION

The GOA claims that U.S. sanitary restrictions are devices to protect U.S. producers. It wants relaxation of U.S. regulations to permit importation of fresh beef under controlled conditions. GOA proposals include designation of Patagonia as an aftosa-free zone and the lowering of required cooking temperatures for processed beef to permit greater variety.

III. U.S. POSITION

The U.S. continues to believe that Argentine proposals pose an unacceptable health risk.

IV. SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS

- The U.S. recognizes Argentine efforts to free the country of aftosa.

- Secretary of Agriculture Bergland met with Agriculture Minister Cadenas and welcomed the possibility of further discussing health and sanitation matters.

- Health restrictions are not a device to deny U.S. markets to Argentine beef. In fact, U.S. imports of processed beef have risen.

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